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SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

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DEC 1 2 1969
Sent Copy

editorial

AUTUMN ANTI-WAR STORM BREWING *in the US*

UNDER the sponsorship of SDS, SMC, Moratorium and other organizations, multifarious actions will be staged in Washington, Chicago and a host of other US cities for "Withdrawal of US troops from South Viet Nam,"... "Support for the National Liberation Front", "Cancellation of the trial of Chicago Eight"... Once more, the voices of genuine Americans, the voices of freedom, peace and justice in the US will be raised with firmness and sternness against the Nixon administration's prosecution of the Viet Nam war.

We welcome, and express deep appreciation of, such coordinated and courageous activities of American friends, staunch supporters of our resistance for freedom and independence, these very ideals of Lincoln, Washington and Jefferson of whom they are deserving successors.

We are aware that as early as 1961, when US imperialism launched its special war against the South Vietnamese, dissent from US administration's aggressive policy already was fairly articulate. From individual protests, scattered demonstrations by intellectuals, students and a few drives by women, religious circles... it grew into an ebullient movement when Johnson directly committed masses of US troops to South Viet Nam. Since then there has been an increasing realization by the American people that the US administration's war of aggression not only challenges the Vietnamese people's freedom and independence but also seriously damages their own honour, interests and lives. It not only inflicts sufferings and mourning on the victims but also brings deaths and tragedies on the American people, destroys the happiness of hundreds of thousands of US families and impairs the very dignity of each American citizen. Taxes have been on the increase. More and more young men have been drafted and killed in combat. Huge sums of money have gone down the drain and the bulk of Americans find it growingly hard to cope with the soaring cost of living. It is no wonder that they could not sit idle. They have had to take a stand not only because of their love for peace and justice but also because of their tradition of freedom, their honour and their own right to live a decent life, because the future of the babies in their cradles, the happiness of the newly-weds, the peace of the old-agers and the progress of US society is at stake.

More particularly since early 1969, many bursts of anti-war feeling have erupted: the spring movement, the summer agitation and now the autumn effervescence which closely link war opposition slogans such as "Bring the troops home now!", "End the dirty war in Viet Nam", "The fight for freedom..." "Hell No, nobody goes", with those for better living conditions, democracy and against segregation and

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About 100 anti-war demonstrators were escorted from the Pentagon by Government police. ▶

American friends,

We wish you solidarity and united action...

(Message from Mr. Tran Buu Kiem, President of the South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union, to American youth and students)

Dear Friends,

We are very glad to be informed of your active preparations for the 1969 Fall Offensive to End the War in Viet Nam. Especially we are glad to know that towards mid-October, sponsored by Students for a Democratic Society, Student Mobilization Committee, Moratorium and other youth, student and antiwar groups, large-scale activities will be held in Washington, Chicago and other cities, with slogans demanding repatriation of GI's from Viet Nam, supporting the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Provisional Revolutionary Government, opposing the trial of the "Chicago Eight" etc. Allow me to extend to you and to all participants in this Offensive our warmest greetings and our best wishes for success. I would also like to convey our warm regards to all Americans cherishing peace and justice, now victims of repreision and persecution for being opposed to the Viet Nam war.

Dear Friends,

Waging a resolute struggle against the war of aggression by the US imperialists, the youth and students of South Viet Nam always follow with deep sympathy the movement of our young friends across the Pacific, black and white who are acting against that war right from within the United States. Well-known among us are your brave actions in New York and Washington, Oakland and San Francisco, in Columbia University and Universities of California and Berkeley. We highly value your broad, active participation in the Spring Mobilisation this year as well as your successive and varied activities since then, from anti-draft actions, from protests against University complicity in research programs of the Pentagon to recent demonstrations in front of the United Nations. We welcome the growth, the maturity of your movement and of the anti-war movement in the United States in general, signs of which can be seen in every action, every form of struggle, and in such events as the National Conventions of SDS and SMC last June or the National Conference to End the Viet Nam War in July.

We are grateful at the heartfelt sympathy and support you have manifested for our people's struggle, for the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government. We are deeply moved at the expressions of your solidarity over the death of President Ho Chi Minh, the beloved leader of the entire Vietnamese people. I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you our most sincere thanks.

Dear Friends,

As you are meeting here, the war of aggression in South Viet Nam is being intensified, fiercely and stubbornly, by the Nixon administration. This administration on the one hand makes deceitful statements about "de-escalation", while, on the other, escalates the war to a highest level. (The number of B.52 bombings in July, and again

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Activities of President NGUYEN HUU THO in Peking

THE delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam led by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and President of the Advisory Council of the SVNR Government, to attend China's 20th National Day celebrations and to pay a friendship visit to China, arrived in Peking on September 29, 1969.

It was welcomed at the airport by Premier Chou En-lai of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Yeh Chien-ying, Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Li Hsien-nien PRC Vice-Premier, Li Tso-Peng, Deputy-Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Wen Yu-cheng, Deputy-Chief of the General Staff of the CPLA, Kuo Mo-jo, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the CPR National People's Assembly; Li Chiang, PRC Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade; Fang Yi, Minister of the Commission for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries; Han Nien-lung, PRC Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; and others.

It was also greeted by DRVN Premier Pham Van Dong, Head of the delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and of the DRVN Government.

SVNR Ambassador Nguyen Van Quang, accompanying the delegation from Nanning arrived on the same plane.

Also present at the airfield were DRVN Ambassador Ngo Minh Loan, staff members of the DRVN Embassy, representatives of Vietnamese students in Peking, and staff members of the SVNR Embassy.

Diplomatic envoys from many socialist and nationalist countries were also present.

Thousands of Peking citizens had assembled at the airport, above which flags of the People's Republic of China and the South Viet Nam Republic were fluttering. When the special plane with the South Vietnamese delegation on board taxied down the runway, the whole place resounded with the sounds of drum and gongs, and cheers.

When President Nguyen Huu Tho alighted from the plane, the Chinese leaders stepped forward, shook hands with him and gave him hearty hugs.

DRVN Premier Pham Van Dong did the same to the Head of the South Vietnamese delegation.

Following the anthems of the SVNR and the PRC played by the military band, Premier Chou En-lai, the other Chinese leaders, President Nguyen Huu Tho, and the South Viet Nam delegation reviewed the guard of honour, and greeted the people's representatives.

Enthusiastic cheers were heard from all sides, while hundreds of picturesquely-dressed artistes performed lively dances to welcome the envoys from embattled South Viet Nam.

On its way to Peking, the delegation had made a stop-over at Nanning where it had been given a warm welcome by the local authorities and population.

The delegation attended a party given in its honour by Premier Chou En-lai of the People's Republic of China on the evening of September 29.

The delegation of young South Vietnamese heroes and "Valiant Destroyers of Yanks" led by Miss Nguyen Thi Ngoc Lien, Deputy-Commander of the PLAF in Bien Hoa province, which had arrived in Peking for a visit to China, also attended the party.

DRVN Ambassador to China Ngo Minh Loan and other officials of the DRVN Embassy also attended the party.

Speaking at the reception, Premier Chou En-lai expressed the admiration and support of the Chinese people for the Vietnamese people's heroic struggle. He quoted Chairman Mao Tse-tung, the great leader of the Chinese people, as saying: "The 700 million Chinese people provide a powerful backing for the Vietnamese people; the vast expanse of China's territory is their reliable rear area."

"As the Vietnamese people carry on their struggle, we have the responsibility and duty to support them to wage through to the end their war against US aggression, for national salvation," Premier Chou En-lai stressed.

In his speech of reply, President Nguyen Huu Tho warmly thanked the Communist Party, Government and fraternal people of China headed by esteemed Chairman Mao Tse-tung for their great, resolute, wholehearted and effective assistance.

President Nguyen Huu Tho also expressed the South Vietnamese people's elation and joy at the big successes recorded by the Chinese people. He stressed: "The South Vietnamese people are resolved to act upon President HO CHI MINH's sacred Testament: "The resistance to war aggression may drag out. Our fellow-countrymen may have to undergo new sacrifices of life and property. In any case, we must be resolved to fight against the US aggressors till final victory." This is the unshakable, rock-like determination of the South Vietnamese people."

President Nguyen Huu Tho pointed out that the South Viet Nam people are determined to be for ever worthy of the trust and the great and wholehearted assistance of the fraternal Chinese people.

The party took place in an atmosphere of warm Viet Nam – China friendship and militant solidarity.

TALKS were held in Peking on October 1st by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho and Premier Chou En-Lai, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee.

Present on the occasion on the South Vietnamese side were Ibih Aleo, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the SVNNFL, President of the Movement for the Autonomy of the Nationalities in the High Plateaux, and member of the Advisory Council of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government; Ho Xuan Son, Secretariat member of the Central Committee of the SVNNFL; Le Quang Chanh, member of the Central Committee of the SVNNFL and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the SVNR; Le Van Thinh, member of the Central Committee of the SVNNFL; and Nguyen Van Quang, member of the Central Committee of the SVNNFL and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the SVNR to China.

On the Chinese side were Li Hsien-nien, member of the Political Bureau of the CPCCC and Vice-Premier of the State Council; Li Chiang, member of the CPCCC and Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade; Fang Yi, alternate member of the CPCCC and Minister of the Commission for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries; Han Nien-lung, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs; and others.

The talks took place in a very cordial atmosphere full of militant solidarity and fraternal friendship.

We wish you solidarity...

(Continued from page 1)

in August, surpassed the average figure for the previous six months, to cite just one example.) On the one hand, it pays lip service to the right of the people of South Viet Nam to self-determination, and on the other, it sticks to the rotten Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet regime, which represents nobody and which is condemned by the South Vietnamese people. At the Paris Conference, the US representative still eludes discussion of the logical and reasonable proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, and puts forward unreasonable ones which he knows in advance unacceptable.

Of late, in face of the just demand of people in Viet Nam, in the United States and the world over for a rapid and total withdrawal of GI's from South Viet Nam, the Nixon administration announced the pullout of yet another number of troops, and described this as a "peace initiative." However, right in the United States, many have pointed out that this is but an old trick tending to calm down public opinion and cover up the scheme to prolong the war and American occupation of South Viet Nam. That you have given first place, during this Fall Offensive, to demands for a rapid and total withdrawal of troops from South Viet-Nam, eloquently proves that the trick can fool nobody.

More than anyone else, you have seen clearly that the "relay" of a few dozen thousand men means just nothing, compared with the continued presence of almost half a million young Americans in South Viet-Nam, daily to sow death and suffering there, then to die a meaningless death themselves, for a "democracy" and "freedom" they and their relatives don't have. More than anybody else, you have seen clearly that your interests, and the genuine interests of the American people and of the United States, lie not in such pullouts by piecemeal but in the rapid repatriation of all GI's, not in "Vietnamizing" or "de-Americanizing" the costly and unpopular war but in putting an end to it.

Such is the only honourable way out for the United States, as has been made clear by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam. If Mr. Nixon really wanted to keep the promises he made during the election campaign or when he took office, he had no alternative but to respond to the 10-point solution proposed by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government, rapidly to withdraw from South Viet Nam all troops of the US and other foreign countries of the US camp without putting any condition, to give up the Thieu-Ky-Khiem puppet regime and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference.

Dear friends,

You have entered a new offensive, vigorous and decisive. May I wish you solidarity and united action, and great successes in this Fall Offensive, thus helping to push further forward the movement of the American people at large against the Viet Nam war, for peace, democracy, freedom and justice. For our part, the youth and students of South Viet Nam pledge to stand always by your side. We pledge, shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the South Vietnamese people, to overcome all difficulties and hardships, to carry on powerfully the struggle until final victory, to fulfil our obligation towards the country and to deserve the confidence you and other friends throughout the world have placed upon us.

Once again, I wish you broad unity, persistent struggle and great success.

South Viet Nam, September 23, 1969

WARM AND RESPECTFUL CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT TON DUC THANG VICE-PRESIDENT NGUYEN LUONG BANG

President
TON DUC THANG

Message of President NGUYEN HUU THO

"Esteemed President Ton Duc Thang,
Esteemed Vice-President Nguyen Luong Bang,

At a time when our people in both zones South and North united millions as one are turning their sorrow into revolutionary deeds and endeavouring to carry out President Ho Chi Minh's Testament, the National Assembly of the DRVN met and unanimously elected Uncle Ton to the Presidency and Mr. Nguyen Luong Bang to the Vice-Presidency of the DRVN. This is an important political event testifying to the unshakable solidarity and unity of mind of our people, manifesting their determination to persistently and firmly march forward to pursue the great cause of President Ho Chi Minh. That political event has rendered the 17 million North Vietnamese people and the South Vietnamese people and combatants now struggling on the great forefront more confident in the inevitable success of the socialist construction in the North and in the complete victory over the US aggressors in the South.

On behalf of the South Viet Nam NFL Central Committee and the Advisory Council of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, we take this opportunity to convey our respectful and warmest congratulations to the President and Vice-President. We wish Uncle Ton good health and long life and Mr. Nguyen Luong Bang good health, and wish them many successes in leading the State, leading the people in the building of a strong North Viet Nam and fulfil the task of the great rear toward the great frontline.

The 14 million South Vietnamese people and combatants with the 17 million North Vietnamese people standing by their side, shoulder to shoulder, are resolved to ceaselessly strengthen solidarity, implement President Ho Chi Minh's Testament and their pledges when paying the last tribute to his memory, resolutely step up their resistance war persistently, determined to fight and win, till the US troops quit completely and the puppet army and administration topple totally in order to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland".

South Viet Nam, September 25, 1969
President of the Presidium of the CC of the NFL
President of the Advisory Council
LAWYER NGUYEN HUU THO

Vice-President
NGUYEN LUONG BANG

Message of the SVNR PRG Council

Learning that the National Assembly of the DRVN, sitting in its 5th session (Third Legislature) in Hanoi on September 24, unanimously elected Mr. Ton Duc Thang of the Presidency and Mr. Nguyen Luong Bang to the Vice-Presidency of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, on behalf of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Advisory Council of the Government, we warmly welcome you and convey to you and, through you, to the North Vietnamese kith-and-kin our warmest congratulations.

As veteran revolutionaries constantly upholding the nation's tradition of staunchness and heroism and the unswerving stand against imperialism and colonialism, constantly holding high revolutionary virtues, namely industry, thrift, integrity, uprightness, devotion to the public cause and selflessness, modesty and simplicity, and dedicating your whole life to the service of the people, you have long won great esteem and credit from the entire people.

You are close companions-in-arms of President Ho Chi Minh and have together with him shouldered the responsibility of leading the people throughout the country in the struggle for independence and freedom, and made a worthy contribution to the revolutionary movement and the defence of peace in the world.

The fact that the DRVN National Assembly has now entrusted you with posts of President and Vice-President of the DRVN deeply reflects the confidence and love of the people and at the same time, testifies to the iron-clad determination of our North Vietnamese kith-and-kin to pursue, under your leadership, President Ho Chi Minh's glorious cause, persistently fight to defeat the US aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North and reunify the Fatherland.

We firmly believe that with your ardent patriotism, your unconditional devotion to the people, your talents and noble virtues, and by relying on the monolithic national unity — the most eloquent manifestation of which being the trust recently given to you by the National Assembly — you would gloriously succeed in leading the State and people as the DRVN National Assembly has entrusted you, and would contribute to the liberation of South Viet Nam, to the national reunification, to the world revolutionary movement and the safeguarding of world peace.

We wish you good health to serve the Fatherland and the people, and many successes.

South Viet Nam, September 25, 1969
President of the PRG of the SVNR
HUYNH TAN PHAT
President of the Advisory Council
NGUYEN HUU THO

WE PROTEST VIGOROUSLY

The savage crimes of US-puppets perpetrated against the women detained in Thu Duc

PRG of the SVNR

spokesman's statement

"IN July and the first 24 days of August 1969, the US aggressors and the lackey puppet administration launched one savage terror campaign after another against the over 1,400 women illegally detained in Thu Duc, among them many minors. These new and utterly savage crimes were perpetrated with nauseating methods, with the enemy slashing the faces of prisoners, stuffing their mounths and eyes with caustic lime, breaking their teeth, strangling or raping them, pushing sticks into their genitals, or beating them to physical disability. As a result, over 200 persons were killed or injured.

In the wake of the premeditated bombing of the Tay Ninh prison on June 19, 1969, resulting in nearly 100 inmates killed or wounded, the slaying of nearly 800 political prisoners in Poulo Condor in February and March, 1969, the bloody repression of hundreds of inmates of the Tan Hiep Hoa prison (Bien Hoa) in April 1969, and tens of thousands of other bloody repressions in prisons all over South Viet Nam, these new crimes of the US — puppets in Thu Duc prove that the enemy is frantically pushing up his fascist repression against patriots in his hands, along with the accelerated "Phoenix" campaign which, in fact, is a drive of intimidation and assassination against the patriots and any one opposing him.

These new crimes of the US — puppets, coinciding with their intensified terror raids, the devastation of large populous areas by B.52 aircraft, and the use of war gas and noxious chemicals to massacre people and destroy crops, spell out the fact that in their death throes, the US — puppets are sparing no move, however barbarous, to cow the South Vietnamese people, stave off their own collapse, and carry out the US imperialists' design to occupy and rule over South Viet Nam.

The ruthless methods of repression applied by the US — puppets regarding patriotic women in the Thu Duc prison typify the utterly inhuman prison regime under the US — puppets. They fully expose the ferocious and cowardly nature of the aggressors, and point to the decay and impotence of the lackey puppet administration, a gang of degenerated traitors to their own country and people.

Far from proving their strength or warding off their collapse, the fascist repression by the US — puppets have aroused stronger hatred by the people of all strata here, and incurred scorn and condemnation from the world public. Determined to punish the US aggressors and their henchmen for the crimes mentioned above, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam will deal them still more vigorous blows. We will completely defeat the US war of aggression, totally overthrow the lackey puppet administration, and win complete victory for the struggle to defend the nation's independence and freedom.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam strongly condemns and denounces these savage crimes of the US imperialists and the Saigon puppet administration to the public at home and abroad. It resolutely demands the US — puppets to stop immediately the terror and repression in prisons, release all the women detained in Thu Duc, compensate for the lives they have taken, cure the wounded, and set free all other patriots detained in the various prisons in South Viet Nam.

The SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government calls on all governments, all international democratic institutions, all jurists, and the peoples all over the world, including the progressive people in the United States, to take energetic measures, for the sake of justice and humanism, to check the hands of the murderers in South Viet Nam — the US aggressors and their henchmen".

South Viet Nam, October 6, 1969

SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE

of the Committee to denounce US—Puppets' War Crimes in South Viet Nam on Thu Duc massacre

"FOR more than fifteen years now, the US — puppets have perpetrated towering crimes against patriots in South Viet Nam.

The crimes of the US and puppets have become even more loathsome since Nixon took office. Most recently, the US and the Thieu—Ky—Khiem clique haven taken savage acts of repression and massacre against the over 1,400 female inmates of the Thu Duc prison, 12km from Saigon.

The prison is a real hell on earth. The more than 1,400 women illegally detained there have to live in crowded wards, in hunger and thirst, and without medical care, in addition to frequent tortures inflicted on them in torture rooms and right in their wards.

In execution of the US policy, the puppet administrations, from the Diem-Nhu brothers formerly to Thieu—Ky—Khiem clique at present, have tried to brainwash political prisoners through "denunciation of communism" courses and the salute to the Saigon flag. Their aim is to terrorize those who refuse to bend and force others to give up their patriotic ideal.

The same methods have been applied in the Thu Duc prison, and have met with stiff resistance on the part of the women prisoners. As a retaliation, the jailers have subjected the prisoners to utterly savage tortures.

Following the many previous bloody repressions, the enemy in July this year started another terror campaign against the female inmates, specially those firmly opposed to the "denunciation of communism" courses and the salute to the Saigon flag. They resorted to such barbarous methods as stuffing their mouths and eyes with caustic lime, breaking their teeth, slashing their faces, pushing sharp-edged sticks into their genitals, or throttling them to death.

Many who fell victims of the lime torture or beatings lost consciousness and later became disabled for life, such as Misses Tran Thi Nga, Nguyen Thi Cam, Nguyen Thi Canh, Nguyen Thi Hue, and Mme Ty.

Among those receiving blows and kicks on their genitals in addition to the aforesaid tortures were Tran Thi Lien, Pham Thi Bach Tuyet, Ho Thi Ut, Nguyen Thi Lai, Quach Kim Anh, Tran Thi Hong Loan, Nguyen Thi Hanh, Pham Thi Mai, Nguyen Thi Nhan, Nguyen Thi Hien and Pham Thi Duc.

The torturers thrusted sticks into the genitals of Miss Le Tu Cam (student), broke the teeth of Miss Nguyen Thi Bay (teacher) and slashed the faces of To Thi Tam and Nguyen Thi Bich.

On August 16, Tran Thi Binh, 18, was stripped naked and ordered to parade before her torturers. Then the latter tied her hair to her own nipples and pulled the hair with all their strength. Then she was laid on the ground, Quy and Nhan, two of the jailers, forced her legs apart and Captain Duong Ngoc Minh, the chief warden, ravaged her genitals with a sharp-edged stick. After that, the other torturers took turns in raping her, till she lost consciousness.

The same day, the enemy summoned to court ten of the inmates — Tran Kim Cuc, Trinh Hong Quan, Vo Thi Anh, Nguyen Thi Lan, Nguyen Thi Thu, Vo Thi Ut, Tran Thi Vien, Nguyen Thi An, Nguyen Thi Hoa and Huynh Thi Hong. After questioning them, they handcuffed these women and kept them in separate cells. These women prisoners went on a hunger strike, which was immediately responded to by all other female prisoners in the camp who started a general hanger strike.

On August 21, the enemy summoned many of the strikers to the warden's office, where they beat them up savagely. As a result of exhaustion after many days of ordeal, Nguyen Thi Tan and Dang Thi Ranh died that very night. (Nguyen Thi Tan, 42, arrested on May 25, 1968 at the Ba Hoa post, Dang Thi Ranh, a girl of 16 in Binh Phuoc village, Thu Duc district, had been sentenced to one year of suspended imprisonment although no evidence could be produced to support the charge against her.

As the other prisoners did not let them take away the two bodies, the enemy resorted to even more savage beatings. Khong Que Kinh, 24, a Chinese resident, was killed on the spot. Many other women were seriously injured. More cruel still, the chief warden even ordered his men to take off the clothes of Nguyen Thi Tan, and he himself trampled on her body and face in order to intimidate the remaining women.

The most seriously injured women were then taken to unknown destinations, among them Vo Thi Lan (16), Nguyen Thi Cam (17), Tran Kim Cuc (17) — arrested on May 5, 1968 in Saigon, and transferred to Thu Duc on November 30, same year, Vo Thi Anh (18), Huynh Thi Ngon (19), Trinh Hong Quan (19), Lam Xuan Hao (25), a Chinese national, arrested on May 5, 1968, and Ly Quy Chi (30).

Facing the enemy atrocities, all the over 1,400 women prisoners rose up in struggle to defend their own life. They demanded the enemy to stop the beatings and terror, abolish the harsh prison regime, set free the prisoners and punish the criminals.

Scorning law and trampling upon the legitimate demands of the women prisoners, the agents of the US - puppets launched a new drive of terror against the prisoners.

They sent in a big force of marines and field police to suppress the latter's struggle.

On August 22, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Xuan Lan, 42, an inhabitant of Son Hoi, Son Tinh district, Quang Ngai province arrested in Saigon and transferred to Thu Duc on March 2, 1969, was beaten to death.

The following day, a field police company was sent to the jail to take away the body of Nguyen Thi Xuan Lan. They savagely beat many other women prisoners.

To placate the prisoners' struggle, Lieutenant Colonel Luyen, director of Chi Hoa, and Lieutenant Colonel Sen representing the puppet military court and the deputy director of the Thu Duc prison made a vocal promise to meet the demands of the women prisoners, declaring that they would stop the beating and terror and punish the murderers, abolish the salute to the Saigon flag and abolish the harsh prison regime, all the beatings against prisoners draw up records on the beatings resulting in the incapacitation of the victims, photograph the bodies of the dead and organize their funerals.

But immediately thereafter, on August 24, the US-puppets sent in 60 cruel agents to suppress the prisoners in wards B, C and G and evacuated by force all the prisoners in ward H. They handcuffed and isolated 20 prisoners in the reception ward, Duong Ngoc Minh, the warden of Thu Duc prison himself and his stooges went on beating up many others.

This was the most savage suppression of women patriots in South Viet Nam by the US-abetted Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique.

These were among the most heinous and bloody crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors in South Viet Nam.

We vehemently denounce these crimes before public opinion at home and abroad. At the same time we call on world democratic organizations, lawyers, citizens, socialists and all other progressive people in the world to demand the US and the Saigon administration to:

— Set free all the women jailed in the Thu Duc prison and all the patriots detained in other jails in South Viet Nam.

— End the beatings and persecution and the harsh regime in the South Viet Nam prisons.

— Punish the criminals in the Thu Duc jail.

— Give medical treatement to the victims and let the prisoners' relatives come and see them.

— End the aggression by the US in South Viet Nam.

— Withdraw unconditionally all US troops and troops of other foreign countries in the US camp from South Viet Nam.

The terror in Thu Duc jail once more exposed the barbarity of the US and its puppets—the Thieu-Ky-Khiem clique.

The repression in Thu Duc further exposed the aggressive nature of the US imperialists and the traitorous character of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration. It is part of the policy of repression adopted by the US — puppets to cope with the mounting movement of the towns people in South Viet Nam for an end to the US war of aggression, the complete withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration henchmen of the US and traitors to the country. Nevertheless, no amount of savageness of the US aggressors and their lackeys can save them from their ignominious defeat in South Viet Nam.

The US and the Thieu-Ky—Khiem clique must answer for their criminal acts as mentioned above. The more they persist in their aggression and crimes against the South Vietnamese people, the greater the resolve of the latter and of their armed forces in dealing punishing blows fire or even ten times harder.

The US war of aggression will certainly be defeated!

South Viet Nam will be liberated without fail!.

editorial

AUTUMN ANTI-WAR STORM BREWING...

(Continued from page 1)

poverty. Hundreds of thousands of people have joined in demonstrations, marches and pickets of the White House and the Pentagon. Reading of US casualty lists, flying of the South Viet Nam Republic and DRVN flags, distribution of leaflets, advertisement of appeals in newspapers, burning of draft cards and recruiting files, occupation of schools, sabotation to sabotage arms and hardware transporting ships bound for South Viet Nam... have been the methods resorted to display popular anger. Understandably enough, students and youths in an overwhelming majority of universities, across the country, in nearly all major cities have placed themselves in the van of the movement. Life in 60% of US universities and colleges has been upset by anti-war unrest and in the first 5 months of 1969 alone, 250 actions were reported. Legitimately enough, US mothers and wives have shown their concern over the fate of their sons and husbands in most ingenuous ways of their own: prams parading scathing inscriptions, mourning dresses more doleful than tears, telephone calls to the White House more heart-rending than funeral lamentations... Predictably enough, professors, scientists, doctors, writers, journalists, artists and churchmen, by nature so sensitive to the pricks of conscience, have, each group in its own idiom, made unmistakably clear their sentiment against what has become the most controversial issue of the American nation. Predictably enough, GIs, white and black, whether from East or West, from North Dakota or Texas, whether veterans, reservists or recruits, have been turning up in growing numbers in war protest actions. Sometimes, whole regiments have been involved. Hundreds of servicemen stationed in West Germany, Japan and other US bases have deserted to Sweden, England... as a token of their disagreement with their government's policy on Viet Nam. In 1968, there were 160,000 GIs awols. In South Viet Nam, many companies, even regiments resisted marching orders and demanded repatriation.

When Mr Nixon badly needed votes to put him in the White House, he promised to "elect me and I'll end the war in 6 months". But the six-month timelimit has expired without any prospect of fulfilment of his pledge. His cut-back of 60,000 troops from a half million-odd strength (less than a fifth of it is combat forces) is all but a propaganda ploy to ease the pressure of public opinion for a prompt and complete withdrawal and serious talks with the South Viet Nam Republic Government. The next flare-up of popular anger will show the US President that his "talk peace, make war" tactics can't fool his fellow Americans. His "token" run-down, and by driflets at that, coupled with a step-up of the war to an all-time high of ferocity, with murderous sweeps by more than a million-strong US-puppet army, with intensified B52 bombings and fighters' sorties, with wider and higher-dosed sprayings of chemical toxics, to "maintain maximum military pressure", as Mr Laird put it, has certainly not carried much conviction and will not alleviate the Vietnamese people's sufferings nor diminish the American people's difficulties. For the latter are perfectly aware that as far as they and the Vietnamese are concerned, the saying "one man's meat is another man's poison" is not true. On the contrary, the sufferings of Viet Nam always rise in proportion to troubles for the US masses. So if US bombs and poisonous chemicals destroy life and vegatation in South Viet Nam, they also tax the resources of the US and because the South Vietnamese people and armed forces will fight harder for their survival, US battle fatalities will undoubtedly rise. The American people's move in the coming few weeks will give a relevant answer to Mr Nixon's challenge in his September 26 news conference and a stern warning against his continuation of the South Viet Nam costly adventure.

Of course, he has not been sparing of preventive precautions against the imminent storm. He has been calling on the American to.

In ten days, from September 16 to 26, a flow of declarations, press statements, speeches etc... was poured out to protest his will to end the war and to seek a fair settlement to the South Viet Nam conflict. But it is just like trying to extinguish a fire with oil. His rhetorical outpouring only proves his aggressive obstinacy and bellicosity. Since the end of the US war of aggression in South Viet Nam hinges on a speedy and total pull-out of US troops, his trickling and reluctant withdrawals put his good faith in grave doubt, and partake more of a cheap farce than of a sincere effort to achieve peace.

The South Vietnamese people have time and again made their resolve plain. To respond to the appeals of the NFL and the SVN Republic Provisional Revolutionary Government, to honour their pledge to fulfil the late President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions, they will keep up their resistance until their beloved land is rid of all US aggressive troops. In escalating their aggression against South Viet Nam, in trying to decieve the American people, the Nixon administration are digging their own grave. There is no doubt that the masses in the US and the South Vietnamese will join forces and successfully compel them to stop the present aggression, to repatriate all US troops and to respect Viet Nam's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity and to cease denying the South Vietnamese their right to self-determination, and thwarting the aspirations of the American and world peoples.

The South Vietnamese people's demand for independence, democracy, peace and neutrality, and the American people's claim to peace and social progress are most legitimate, reasonable and sensible requirements. It is incumbent on the Nixon administration to meet them. As the aggressor, as the author of both peoples' sufferings and sorrows, US imperialism must end its aggression and their agonies by withdrawing unconditionally all its troops from South Viet Nam, an instrument with which it has been wreaking untold calamities on the Americans as well as on the South Vietnamese. Such is the crucial course of action suggested by the 10-point programme of the NFL and the SVN Republic Provisional Revolutionary Government and consistent with the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights. Such is the essential step the American people want the Nixon administration to take to save US honour, lives and resources. The South Vietnamese make a clear-cut distinction between the American people, their fellow sufferers, and the American rulers, their common oppressors. They prize the former's gallant opposition to the latter's aggression and realize deeply that both peoples' efforts share but one objective: end the war, restore peace, terminate the sufferings of South Vietnamese and Americans alike, strengthen the fraternal friendship between them. Their heartiest welcome and unqualified support go to every protest of the Americans against their government's aggressive policy, to every one of their drives for peace and freedom and for racial equality. There is not a shred of doubt in their minds that both peoples will bring to fruition their respective struggle. Their victory will be the triumph of friendship, righteousness and justice.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

NGUYEN VAN TROI AVENUE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 4th ANNIVERSARY OF NGUYEN VAN TROI (Oct. 15)

On the second day of the second wave of spring general offensives and simultaneous uprisings, a street in Saigon was given a new name: Nguyen Van Troi Avenue. Although the name of the heroic electrical worker was not yet inscribed on the street sign, it was deeply engraved in people's hearts, be they a civil servant in the puppet administration or a laundress. By word of mouth, the new name of the thoroughfare was soon brought to the knowledge of all.

Why should the road be given Troi's name? Perhaps because he had walked along it when he was living the hard days of a worker in Saigon, when he was pondering over ways to punish McNamara... and perhaps because that was where he had for the first time held the soft little hand of Guyen, his fiancée, in his own. It was perhaps there that he had stopped to bid his last farewell to his beloved city before he was taken to prison, and later to his death before the firing squad, when he was to utter the heroic words known to the whole nation.

One afternoon in a suburban village, I met Ba Hoang, the commander of a unit of the Young Guard which had fought against the enemy on Nguyen Van Troi Avenue during the spring of the year Ky Dau. He was a 21-year-old Saigonese, with just one year of service in the liberation armed forces.

"I too am an electrical worker, like Troi," he said, and smiled. His face was stained with mud, and scratched by thorns, and his teeth were regular and white.

Hoang had just fought a hard street engagement. His clothes still carried the pungent smell of gunpowder and the stench of the city's sewage. That morning, when I was having tea with a few friends under the only remaining clump of bamboos in that village, he and his friends had been locked in deadly battle with enemy police and rangers on Nguyen Van Troi evenue. Here is what happened:

Hoang and his unit of Young Guard launched a surprise raid on a bar and killed more than a score blood-thirsty ruffians from the puppet General Police Headquarters. In their retreat, Hoang brought up the rear. Dozens of police on motorcycles were close on his heels. They were bent on catching him alive and so refrained from using their guns. Hoang rode on with the greatest calm. At a crossroads, as the red light flashed, he rushed across while the pursuing enemy party was stopped by the flow of traffic released by the green light. Quickly taking off his shirt, whose colour had been identified by the police, he put on more speed and made off.

In his story, Hoang often mentioned Thom, an 18-year-old valiant girl member of his unit. Her name, which means "fragrant" in Vietnamese, evokes the sweet scent of flowers of our country.

A poor peasant girl, Thom had come to Saigon hoping for a better life. But there she continued to be the victim of oppression and cruelty. For five years she kept starvation away by working as a water-carrier, a laundress, a bricklayer's apprentice... Then she came to live on Nguyen Van Troi street, and there a big turning point took place in her life. She joined a unit of the Young Guard and fought more than ten engagements against the enemy, in the days which preceded the second wave of spring general offensives. On one occasion, she feigned love for a thug and broke his skull with one hammer blow. On another, she seduced a sentry and succeeded in introducing a basket containing oranges (and an explosive charge) into an enemy headquarters of secret police: the explosion killed 15 ruffians.

One night, Ba Hoang was sleeping when someone knocked at the door. When he opened it, he found Thom standing beside a burly rascal trussed and gagged.

"Where did you get him?", he asked in surprise.

"In a sewer in his house," Thom answered with the greatest calm.

"Who is he?".

"Deputy head of a police sector."

"How did you get him?"

That's a secret, for the time being," she said, and smiled mischievously.

After telling me the story, Hoang showed me a photograph of Thom, carefully wrapped in a sheet of plastic: An oval face, a straight nose, shining black eyes and glossy hair. Looking at her nice face, we forgot about the heat of the sun and the noise of an American chopper hovering overhead. Hoang looked at the picture for a long time. His voice betrayed emotion.

"I haven't met her for four months now," he said.

"Is she dead?" I asked in anguish.

"No, but she is in enemy hands."

Four months ago, Thom and a comrade called Thanh, nicknamed the Judoka, launched a surprise attack on a restaurant reserved for the police, killing and wounding twelve ruffians with grenades. In their retreat, they were surrounded by troops. Thanh lured the enemy away, creating favourable conditions for Thom to make her escape. After firing all his ammunition, he engaged in hand-to-hand combat with his pursuers and, thanks to his skill in judo, successfully escaped. As he turned into a back alley, he heard the distant scream of a girl. "Auntie! They're taking me away!" It was Thom's signal to him that she had been captured. Soon, he saw a police van driving away at top speed.

Thom was kept in a cell at General Police Headquarters. Secret messages from comrades detained there kept Hoang and his friends informed of her dauntless spirit.

"Who is your commander?" the police would ask. And then she would answer:

"Nguyen Van Troi."

"Whose organisation are you in?" they would insist. And she would say:

"Nguyen Van Troi's"

"Who are members of this organisation, besides yourself?"

"Nguyen Van Troi."

"What street did your commando start from?"

"Nguyen Van Troi," came the unchanging answer.

And so, this Spring, a large Saigon street has been given the name of the national hero Nguyen Van Troi. First to call it so was Thom, the 18-year-old girl with such a nice name: "Fragrant!" Indeed, her exploit has filled with fragrance the whole city of Saigon. The cell in which she was kept stank, but her soul, her life had the sweet smell of lotus flowers blossoming in the Plain of Reeds.

A gust of evening breeze reminded us that it was time to leave. Ba Hoang fell silent. In a few moments, he would return to Saigon, to Nguyen Van Troi Avenue with his unit. Perhaps, when starting a new engagement, he would see in his mind's eye Thom rushing forward, shouting, "To Nguyen Van Troi Avenue, forward!"

HOAI VU

Dear Friends,

This letter is coming to you from a young South Vietnamese whom President Johnson's war has made a widow. I am writing it on the eve of your Fall Offensive to find that war, now continued and intensified by President Nixon. Allow me to send to all of you my warmest regards and best wishes.

PHAN THI QUYEN
to American youth and students

Dear Friends,

I am a worker; so was my late husband, Nguyen Van Troi. Like all other young friends, we did have dreams for the future and happiness, quite ordinary yet really beautiful dreams. But, the aggressive war of the White House and the Pentagon has shattered all these dreams. It has even robbed me of my beloved man right during our honeymoon. His death and my own days in jail have helped me to see more clearly the root cause of all the sufferings and injustices heaping upon my people. As he rightly said to policemen who tortured him then tried to corrupt him under my eyes, "so long as the aggressors remain, nobody can have happiness."

Every time I think of him and his words, I cannot help thinking of the millions of other victims of the aggressive war. I think of the innocent women and children now being massacred in South Viet Nam. I also think of those whose who commit the crime—young Americans who kill and get killed everyday in Viet Nam without even knowing what for. I think of their mothers, their wives, their girl friends and their sisters back at home, who are longing day and night for their return. I think particularly of peace-loving and justice-minded persons in America, young people included, now under repression and persecution for being opposed to the Viet Nam war. And I follow with the deepest sympathy your brave and responsible activities against that war. This sympathy, I already had the opportunity to express to you once in December 1967, on the occasion of your "Stop the Draft—End the War Week". Recently, during a visit to Cuba, I had the pleasure to meet a few young Americans. We exchanged opinions and the warm feelings we had for each other, and I was happy to see a belief of mine confirmed, which is that in the United States itself, we also have many friends.

Dear Friends,

My husband died a heroic, meaningful death. Yet, I do understand the feelings of the thousands upon thousands of American women whose dear ones have died meaninglessly in Viet Nam. President Nixon has withdrawn from South Viet-Nam a number of troops, and announced recently that he would pull out some more. However, nearly half a million young Americans still have to remain in South Viet Nam. Every passing day means more mourning and destruction caused by them to the South Vietnamese people. Every passing day brings more losses to their own ranks. Every passing day brings more suffering, longing and anxiety to their mothers, wives, girl friends and sisters back in America, who yearn to see them home again, safe and sound.

As you already know yourselves, mourning and destruction only strengthen the Vietnamese people's will to struggle still harder, to put an end to the war of aggression and the presence of aggressor armed forces. Such, I believe, is also the way for ordinary, honest Americans early to free themselves from suffering, longing and anxiety. Therefore, I welcome your efforts for an end to the Viet Nam war and the rapid repatriation of all GI's from South Viet Nam, as well as your actions against trials of the "Chicago Eight" and other Americans cherishing peace and justice. I wish you good health, much energy and great success in this Fall Offensive. Please convey my best regards to your families.

September, 24, 1969

The GIs Urge:

"BRING US HOME NOW"

SINCE the start of 1968 and particularly in recent months, as the complexion of the war has been growing ever more unfavourably for the US, the anti-war movement among the American expeditionary force has been gaining both in size and quality.

Reporting to the House Appropriations Committee last June 20, infantry general A.O' Connor admitted that from July 1968 to June this year these had been at least 50,000 desertions from the army. Though surely far below the actual figure, the one disclosed points to a reality: in one year the anti-war drive among officers and men has, to a serious degree, organizationally shaken the US army, especially the US expeditionary force in South Viet Nam.

Taking part in a GIs' demonstration in Washington, April 6, 1969, a soldier just brought home and twice wounded in Viet Nam confirmed this fact: in his unit the ratio of war-protesting servicemen was larger than the one in the US.

That hundreds of "rebellious" GIs are kept in custody in Da Nang, Long Binh, Dong Du, Lai Khe and other places, and many batches of well over a hundred each are rounded up in their bases to be sent forcibly to the battlefield, amply substantiates that the anti-war drive continues to expand and seriously plagued the ranks of the US expeditionary force.

A striking feature of this drive: following a period of setbacks the fighting spirit of the troops downgrades visibly and rapidly. Pessimism, wavering and defeatism appears and makes its impact felt among soldiers and officers as well. Even generals, formerly over-confident of a military victory, have already admitted, "We may lose in Viet Nam".

That American troops belonging to mobile units want to dig in their bases rather than leave them for performing patrol duties or coming to the rescue of their comrades, or demand withdrawal from exposed positions, or, upon adverse gun reports, pull back, abandoning their dead and even their vehicles — is no more isolated occurrences. Marines in Thua Thien — Hue gave money and their food rations to puppet civil guards so that the latter discharged patrol duties in their stead. In Tay Ninh, men of the 25th Infantry Division jumped off their tanks and armoured cars while in action and ran for their lives. Reluctance to fight was particularly obvious in recent operations: deploying at CoCaVa and A Bia, the GIs made no more than a few miles a day; many pretended illness or straggled along the way to be brought to the rear area. Such a state of things very often happened in the First Cav stationed in East Nam Bo. Indeed, wherever these "flying cavalrymen" landed they held on to the same places, abstaining from fanning out and going on terrorist raids. When the PLAF attacked they clustered into definite defence perimeters and relied on the air force to cope with their opponent, not daring to march on. They too covered no more than two or three miles daily.

Another characteristic of the current anti-war movement: the GIs' demand for repatriation, and frequent non-compliance with their superiors' orders. In this respect they adopt diversified forms of struggle, such as wounding themselves with their own weapons, destroying their arms and ammunitions, running away from their bases after the operation order is given, resisting orders to board helicopters for operation sites, or refusing battle while in the field, individual or collective absence without leave (the "awols") wait, in the occupied towns, for the earliest occasion to go home, and so on and so forth. On November 3 and 4, 1968, while deploying on Highway 9, North Quang Tri, a dozen US marines stopped short at milestones 6 and 7, blocked the convoy with their vehicles and staged a demonstration for repatriation. Similar collective protests were repeatedly carried out by American marines in the course of operations in the Quang Nam — Da Nang region. Last May, 200 of them stationed at Thanh Khe, Da Nang, and a company rebelled against their C.O. who forced them to go and reinforce US troops in west Duy Xuyen. Quite a few GIs set fire to their equipment as many as four times, after which they went into hiding in local people's dwellings. No less than a hundred left their bases at Hoa Khanh, Hoa Vang district and strolled about in the area.

In East and Central Nam Bo theatres, collective actions undertaken by more or less than a hundred officers and men of company or battalion-sized units occured almost every day in their bases or during their operations. In the first six months of this year, the number of such cases of disobedience in the 9th Infantry Division alone (Central Nam Bo) was nearly as large as that of the whole of 1968 (60) throughout South Viet Nam. At the Binh Duc base collective actions broke out in succession and with particular violence. GI war-dissenters including officers and military policemen, did not only ignore orders and desert but wrecked defence works and weapons, set equipment on fire, kill sheep-dogs and threw tons of munitions into rivers. They went so far as to fire at their superiors and all those who set out to repress them, thus triggering off bitter fights in American bases.

In many cases such actions turned into mutinies, which showed the participants' conscious opposition to the aggressive war in Viet Nam and reluctance to play the role imposed on them. Witness the recent actions at Cong Voi (Long An), Dong Du (Gia Dinh), Binh Duc (My Tho), Trang Bang (Tay Ninh) and other places, in which armoured cars, storages and other war means were destroyed, and a dozen Americans killed, among them several officers.

On the other hand, such slogans as "Peace in Viet Nam" and "Bring us home now" have appeared in US marines bases in Central Trung Bo and in the course of raids by US mobile divisions in East Nam Bo. Collective letters were sent back home by officers and men of the First Cav making clear their earnest desire to be brought home. All this spells out that the anti-war drive in the US expeditionary force is organizationally unproving with every passing day, and that it has ever closer links with the vigorous movement of the American progressives.

The transformation of the character of the drive is marked by actions of increasing significance. Apart from arms lay-down right at the start of the fight, crossings over to Liberation troops on the battle field now take place more often than not. Following the example of black GIs a number of their white mates left their ranks and joined the NFL in Quang Nam and Kontum. Lowney, a Marine who had just landed in South Viet Nam, went over to the PLAF on February this year while the fighting was under way at CoCaVa. He openly condemned the US unjust and immoral war. To cope with this situation commanders fired at their men as in Darlac, Gia Lai, Quang Nam and North Quang Tri. The killing of a Marine at Phuoc Tuong on last May 3 aroused widespread indignation among the troops. The US command has gone to the length of planting secrete organizations in the expeditionary force, which do not scruple to liquidate deserters when they think this useful. A fact which points to the size of the GI's anti-war drive and to the danger it involves for the US aggressors.

Facing the awakening and legitimate aspirations of the expeditionary troops, on the one hand the Nixon administration steps up the war, thereby boosting the US casualty toll, and on the other stages the withdrawal farce. With such a course of action it cannot but fan up the anti-war feeling in the expeditionary force and will bring upon itself unforseeable aftermaths.

HOANG SON

The slippery road and the heavy load can't slowdown the PLAF march

SVNR and Cambodia sign trade and payments agreement

A trade and payments agreement between the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia was signed in Phnom Penh on September 25, according to GPA correspondent in the Cambodian capital.

The agreement was signed by Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the SVNR to Cambodia, representing the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, and Cambodian Minister of Trade Prom Thos, representing the Cambodian Royal Government.

Present on the occasion were diplomatic officials of the SVNR Embassy and Prince Monissara, Acting Secretary General of the Cambodian Foreign Ministry, and other Cambodian officials.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Ambassador Nguyen Van Hieu said: "The strengthening of the State relations between the two sides proceeds from the policy of solidarity and support charted by Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Government and people of Cambodia toward the South Vietnamese people's struggle for independence and freedom. It also proceeds from the unswerving attitude of the South Viet Nam NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government aimed at building lasting friendship with the Kingdom of Cambodia on the basis of mutual respect and mutual benefits."

He expressed the belief that the newly-signed agreement would contribute to consolidating the present and future co-operation between South Viet Nam and Cambodia, in the interests of the defence of the basic national rights and national construction of the two sides.

Ambassador Nguyen Van Hieu convoyed the sincere thanks of the South Viet Nam people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the SVNR to Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Royal Government and people of Cambodia for their new manifestation of friendship.

In his reply, Minister Prom Thos, after thanking the Ambassador for his congratulations, said that the signing of the agreement was a token of the fraternal relations between the two peoples. He added: "As you have stressed, the present agreement constitutes another evidence of the mutual confidence and support between our two peoples in their common interests. We are convinced that the Kingdom of Cambodia and the South Viet Nam Republic, two neighbours, will always stand side by side with each other, and will further strengthen their intimate and fraternal relations."

The Minister asked Ambassador Nguyen Van Hieu to convey to the South Vietnamese people and the SVNR PRG the best regards of the people and Royal Government of Cambodia.

The signing ceremony took place in an atmosphere full of fraternal friendship.

WCJ fully supports our just struggle

THE week-long Conference of the *International Organization of Journalists* in *Pyongyang* which closed on September 24 unanimously adopted two documents — a Manifesto and a Resolution — fully supporting the Vietnamese people's just struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Both the Manifesto and the Resolution expressed full support for the 4-point stand of the Government of the DRVN and the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam NFL and the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government, regarding them as the correct, fair and reasonable basis for the settlement of the Viet Nam problem. They demanded that the US withdraw all American troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam without posing any conditions, respect the right of self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and let the latter decide themselves their political regime without foreign interference.

The Manifesto, among other things, particularly laid bare the aggressive nature of the US imperialists — the enemy number one of the world's people — and called on the people of the world to enhance their solidarity and step up further their struggle against US aggression.

It energetically condemned the Nixon administration for stubbornly prolonging and intensifying its war of aggression against South Viet Nam, and trampling upon the basic national rights of the Vietnamese people.

After exposing the US imperialists' perfidious scheme in the so-called "plan for troop withdrawals," the Manifesto appealed to the people throughout the world to support still more strongly the entire Vietnamese people's determination to liberate the South, defend the North and proceed toward the peaceful reunification of their Fatherland.

For its part, the Resolution said that the US must stop all acts of violation of the sovereignty and security of the DRVN, that South Viet Nam must enjoy independence, peace, democracy and neutrality, and that the Vietnamese people's aspirations for peace and reunification of the country must be satisfied.

The resolution called on all progressive journalists to organize as from December 20, 1969 a broad propaganda campaign in various countries, denouncing the US imperialists for carrying on their war of aggression in South Viet Nam, supporting the South Vietnamese people's stand and, first of all, demanding the quick withdrawal of all American troops from South Viet Nam.

In response to the appeals made at the Conference by the delegations of the DRVN and the SVNR, all the delegates of the 99 countries and 13 international organizations signed a petition demanding that the US pull out all troops of its own and of its satellites from South Viet Nam without setting any conditions.

The US is fanning the flames of war in Laos

THE war kindled by US imperialism in Laos several years ago has reached serious proportions. World and American opinion is following the situation in this country with indignation and growing concern. The *New York Times* (Sept. 21) asked: Another Viet Nam is developing in Laos? The same day *AFP* reported that US political circles "demand that the Congress investigate US military activities in Laos". The *Washington Post* (Sept. 23) said, on the other hand, that people in the US want that the Nixon administration tell them what the danger in Laos is like, and where lies the US interest.

In his press conference on September 26, Nixon contended that "there are no American combat forces in Laos". Let him say what the 12,000 Americans portrayed as "advisers" and "specialists" are doing there? What's the purpose of massive US bombings and shellings? Didn't Nixon acknowledge that the Americans had started air sorties and other actions? The US president's precautions cannot at all erase the fact that the "special war", now being stepped up in Laos and called "a secrete war", is now brought into broad daylight. The truth is that since early August the US Air Force based in Laos, Thailand and the Pacific has been carrying out round-the-clock strikes all over Laos, the number of which, according to *UPI* (Sept. 28), "nearly tripled after the bombing halt over North Viet Nam last November". Parallel to the intensification of air attacks, Washington's machine in Laos has mobilized 20 battalions of the rightist faction belonging to the US Special Forces. Operating with the support of Thailand troops, these battalions launched the *Kou Kiet* (honour-saving) campaign to encroach upon the liberated areas of the Patriotic Front and Patriotic Neutralist Forces at Khang Khay, Xieng Khoang and the Plain of Jars (Upper Laos). In coordination the Americans and their flunkeys started another campaign in Central and Lower Laos. In the course of those nibbling attacks they carried into effect the "burn all, destroy all and kill all" policy as in South Viet Nam and herded the population into concentration camps dubbed "war refugee camps."

At the same time, with the Americans pulling the wires behind the scene, Lao reactionary authorities encircled and staged provocations against the Patriotic Front Delegation in Vientiane and resorted to hooligans' tricks against the DRVN embassy personnel. Also on orders from the Americans, their Lao and Saigon agents forced Vietnamese nationals to leave for South Viet Nam where they would be drafted into the puppet army.

Conceivably, the above-mentioned military activities and provocations master-minded and directed by the Americans have landed Laos, in an ebullient situation. As pointed out by the spokesman of the Lao Patriotic Front, "by their acts of war, the US imperialists and their henchmen have created unprecedented tension in Laos and forged a pretext and conditions for the United States and its Thailand satellite to further intensify intervention and aggression in this country."

Clearly enough, US imperialism is the aggressor in Laos; it has brazenly trampled upon the 1962 Geneva Agreement, overthrown the tripartite national-union government and set up the puppet Vientiane government as an instrument of US aggression and neo-colonialism. The present situation in Laos is in itself a condemnation of the crimes committed by the international gendarme — the United States — and its agents, the Vientiane ruling clique. It is at the same time an eloquent denial of the slanderous allegation of the latter and of Souvana Phouma personally on the so-called presence of North Vietnamese troops, allegation intended to whitewash the US aggressors and plead for their undertaking in this country.

In the face of those acts of aggression and intolerable crimes, the Lao people and their armed forces, fired by utmost hatred for their enemy, are resolved to defend the liberated zone and their lives and property, and to deal telling blows at their opponent so as to "avenge those who have been massacred or pillaged by the American aggressors and their flunkeys. They are resolved to use their legitimate right of self-defence to deliver well-deserved blows at their adversary whenever they perpetrate crime as well as at the redoubts they start from to do so" (Declaration of the spokesman of the Lao Patriotic Front, Sept. 29). In response to this appeal the armed forces and population of Xieng Khoang have opposed resolute resistance to the attackers and already to caused them substantial losses. According to preliminary figures, in twenty-five days beginning August 20, 600 adverse troops were put out of action, and a large quantity of material and equipment captured. It is the firm determination of the people and armed forces in the whole liberated zone of Laos to shatter the nibbling attacks mounted by the Americans and their agents.

US aggression carried out in the form of "special warfare" over the last several years has been held in check. As a man in a fit of pernicious fever the enemy are frenziedly thrashing about to step up the war with the hope of turning its tide. However, as warned by the *Washington Post* (Sept. 23), now the US is sinking back-deep in Laos, tomorrow it will sink neck-deep.

While pushing forward its "special war" in Laos, the Americans bring the "limited war" in South Viet Nam to a new high and multiply provocations and violations of the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia. This lays bare their design to spread the flames of war throughout Indochina.

Fighting shoulder to shoulder on the same front — the Indochinese peoples' front —, against the same enemy, the American imperialists and their lackeys, the people of South Viet Nam are utterly indignant at, and energetically condemn, the US criminal acts of aggression in Laos.

By their own fight the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces pledge to closely join their efforts with the fraternal Lao people so as to foil every act of aggressive war of the US on their territory and contribute to the struggle for independence, freedom, peace, neutrality of the Indochinese peoples.

THANG LOI

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